



Superfund Records Center  
SITE: Centredale  
BREAK: 10.4  
OTHER: 498869

160 N. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 400, BOSTON, MA 02114

**TECHLAW INC.**

PHONE: (617) 720-0320  
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February 6, 2001

HAND DELIVERED

Anna Krasko, EPA WAM  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I  
One Congress Street  
Boston, MA 02203

Re: GSA - Environmental Advisory Services  
Contract No. GS-10F-0168J  
Work Order Name: Centerdale  
Interview Summaries and Affidavit

Dear Ms. Krasko:

Pursuant to the Work Order referenced above and issued via purchase order to TechLaw, Inc., please find enclosed interview summaries and affidavits as listed for the individuals below:

Interview Summaries

- Felix Palumbo
- Jack Sabetta
- Vincent Caccia
- Eric Hedstrom
- Robert Castro
- Marian Morra
- Charlotte Knott
- David Ricci

Affidavits

- Donald Perron
- Joseph Nadeau

Please call me with any questions or comments at (617) 720-0320 ext. 132.

Sincerely,

Pamela Sass Cahaly  
Project Manager



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**Details of a conference with Felix Palumbo - 1/19/01**  
**By Blake Investigative Agency**

Mr. Palumbo was employed by Atlantic Chemical and Metro-Atlantic as a truck driver, from approximately 1946 until 1970. He resides at [REDACTED] his telephone number is [REDACTED], and he is 76 years old. This report was prepared by the Blake Investigative Agency.

As a truck driver, he delivered the finished product to Metro-Atlantic's customers. The only delivery, which he could recall, was to Russell Motor Vehicles.

On occasion, he would pick up 30 to 40 barrels from Bradford Soap and deliver them to New England Container. He did not know whether or not the barrels contained anything.

Because he was mainly "on the road" making deliveries, he had no information on the production process or waste disposal at Metro-Atlantic.

He had no memory on any deliveries to Eli Lilly.

**Privileged Work Product Prepared in Anticipation of Litigation**

**Enforcement Confidential**

**Details of a conference with Jack Sabetta – 1/20/01**  
**By Blake Investigative Agency**

I spoke with Mr. Sabetta on a prior occasion (see report dated 9/18/00). This report was prepared by the Blake Investigative Agency.

On this occasion, I drafted an affidavit, which Mr. Sabetta reviewed and approved. He is going to consult his attorney, regarding the affidavit, and will sign it and forward it to me, if his attorney approves.

**Privileged Work Product Prepared in Anticipation of Litigation**

**Enforcement Confidential**

**Details of a conference with Vincent Caccia - 1/23/01**  
**By Blake Investigative Agency**

Mr. Caccia was employed by Metro-Atlantic in the Fabric Testing Lab, from 1956 until 1960. He resides at [REDACTED] and his telephone number is [REDACTED].

This report was prepared by the Blake Investigative Agency.

In the Fabric Testing Lab, he tested the finished product in order to ensure that it met quality control standards. Water repellents made at the plant were spread onto fabric and tested. The samples were brought to him from the production area. He had no memory of hexachlorophene.

He had no direct contact with the production process and no memory of what types of chemicals were used in this process or how they were disposed.

He had no information on the New England Container operation or knowledge of site disposal or contamination.

**Privileged Work Product Prepared in Anticipation of Litigation**

**Enforcement Confidential**

**Details of a conference with Eric Hedstrom - 1/23/01**  
**By Blake Investigative Agency**

Mr. Hedstrom was the Boring foreman at the site in 1976, who took test borings for American Drilling, prior to the construction of Brook Village. He resides at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and his telephone number is [REDACTED]. This report was prepared by the Blake Investigative Agency.

At the time, they would drill holes into the ground and test for soil density or blow count, unlike today when they also test for hazardous materials. He drilled on the front lot closest to Rt. 44 and drilled a hole where each corner of the building was to be located and one or two holes in the center area. The soil samples were sent to the American Drilling office to be tested for density.

Concerning the condition of the site, he had no memory of any stains or barrels on the ground or of any chemical smells emanating from the area. He did not walk around the site and had no contact with the river or the tailrace.

He had no knowledge of the other individuals whose last names were listed on the drilling records.

**Privileged Work Product Prepared in Anticipation of Litigation**

**Enforcement Confidential**

**Details of a conference with Robert Castro - 1/24/01**  
**By Blake Investigative Agency**

Mr. Castro was employed by Crown Chemical in Providence, R.I. He resides at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] and his telephone number is [REDACTED]. This report  
was prepared by the Blake Investigative Agency.

Crown Chemical merged with Metro-Atlantic Chemical and the Centerdale operation was  
moved to downtown Providence, R.I. and combined with the Crown Chemical operation. The  
Centerdale plant was closed.

He had no information on the Centerdale operation and was deposed on a matter  
concerning Crown Chemical's business and does not want to be involved in this matter.

**Privileged Work Product Prepared in Anticipation of Litigation**

**Enforcement Confidential**

**Details of a conference with Marian Morra - 1/24/01  
By Blake Investigative Agency**

Ms. Morra was employed by Atlantic Chemical and Metro-Atlantic as a bookkeeper, from approximately 1941 until 1961. She resides at [REDACTED], her telephone number is [REDACTED], and she is 73 years old. This report was prepared by the Blake Investigative Agency.

She handled payroll for the business, but did not do any work or payroll for New England Container. She worked in the Centerdale, R.I. office and did the payroll for the Centerdale operation, the Fairlawn, N.J., Greenville, S.C., and the Canadian operation of Metro-Atlantic Chemical. She would mail the payroll to the other plants from the Centerdale plant.

She had no information on the production process, the types of chemicals used, or the waste disposal practices at the facility.

The only Centerdale customer that she could recall was George Mann, Providence, R.I.

After the Centerdale plant was closed, she did not move to the Providence office.

**Privileged Work Product Prepared in Anticipation of Litigation**

**Enforcement Confidential**

**Details of a conference with Charlotte Knott - 1/26/01**  
**By Blake Investigative Agency**

Mrs. Knott was employed by Atlantic Chemical and Metro-Atlantic, from approximately 1945 until 1959 as the Supervisor of Quality Control. She resides at [REDACTED], her telephone number is [REDACTED], and she is 68 years old. This report was prepared by the Blake Investigative Agency.

Her job involved taking samples from the kettles, where the product was being made. The company made chemicals that were used mainly by the textile industry, including a large amount of waterproofing materials. Caustic, formaldehyde, and other types of chemicals, whose names she could not recall, were used in the production process. These materials were mixed in large kettles, of which there were at least 10 at the plant. Samples of the materials being made in the kettles were taken to the lab and tested as a part of quality control, to make sure that the product met the specifications required of it.

She remembered that the company made hexachlorophene, but could not recall the customer for whom it was made.

Waste material from the kettles was drained into the river. After the product had been made and emptied from the kettles, the kettles had to be cleaned before they could be reused. The kettles were washed with hoses and water. When they were clean, the wastewater and residue in the kettle was drained into the river by opening some valves, that allowed the water and waste in the kettle to drain into pipes, which emptied into the river. This disposal of waste into the river occurred on a daily basis, each time one of the 10 or more kettles were cleaned. Bad batches of material, that could not be saved, were also drained from the kettles into the Woonasquatucket River.

She has seen animals in the river die, when they came into contact with the chemical waste



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**By Blake Investigative Agency**

from the plant. On one occasion, a 55 gallon drum with a chemical in it spilled onto the floor of the plant. The workers had to cover their faces with towels dipped in water and exit the building. When the material drained into the river, the fish in the river turned "belly up" and died. The gas from the chemical got into the refrigeration unit of the First National Supermarket near the plant and contaminated all of the meat, which had to be discarded. This gas or vapor also melted the windshield wipers on automobiles driving by the plant.

Barrels, that had contained chemicals, were rinsed with water and reused. This wastewater also was drained into the river.

She has never seen anything dumped onto the ground around the plant and has no information on the New England Container operation.

Mrs. Knott will sign an affidavit, concerning the aforementioned information.

**Details of a conference with David Ricci - 1/27/01**  
**By Blake Investigative Agency**

Mr. Ricci was employed by Metro-Atlantic in the Control Lab, from 1955 until 1960. He resides at [REDACTED], and his telephone number is unlisted. This report was prepared by the Blake Investigative Agency.

There were 2 laboratories at the plant, a Control Lab and a Research Lab. He worked in the Control Lab as a Technician who tested the product being made from specifications. The products, which he recalled being made at the plant were textile products, water repellants, and urea formaldehyde resin, which was used to waterproof raincoats.

He had no knowledge of the production process or what chemicals or materials were used in this process, outside of formaldehyde. He has no memory of hexachlorophene being used at the facility.

In the Lab, samples of the product being made were brought to him by someone in production and he would test the samples for water evaporation and formaldehyde content. Acids were used in the process but he did not know what specific types were used, because when the sample got to him other materials had been mixed with the acid. He did no direct testing for acid content.

He had no knowledge of disposal into the river or contamination at the site and had no contact with the New England Container operation.